

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 BRONZE MEDAL VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. These outstanding men and women have played an important role in building a better community. This hard work and determination has earned several citizens of Prince William County the highest honor bestowed upon county public safety officials—The Bronze Medal Valor Award.

The Bronze Medal is awarded to emergency service officers who demonstrate extraordinary judgment, ingenuity, or performance of their duties during an emergency. This may also include the saving of a life threatened by physical or medical reasons.

It is with great honor that I recognize Police Officer Second Class H. Booth III of the Prince William County Police Department, Firefighter Christine Connally of the OWL Volunteer Fire Department, and Firefighter Lawrence Kearnes of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department as the recipients of the 2003 Bronze Medal Valor Award. The service they provide to the community is tremendous and is deserving of such acclaim.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. The events of September 11th served as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us every day. Their constant efforts on behalf of Prince William County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our neighborhoods; and their individual and collective acts of heroism deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals.

CONCERNING U.S. AND ALLIED ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL KILLED, WOUNDED, OR TAKEN CAPTIVE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2003, I introduced a Resolution honoring U.S. and allied troops who have been killed in action. My resolution also honors those who are wounded, missing, or being held as prisoners of war.

Our men and women in uniform consistently reflect great honor upon this nation, whether

they are engaged in humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, or war. Throughout our history, we have expected the very best from them. We expect them to be valiant, selfless, courageous, dependable, and dedicated, and they never disappoint us. It is a privilege and an honor to have them represent our nation, whether providing humanitarian assistance, conducting peacekeeping operations, or engaged in war.

Because of the very high regard in which we hold members of the armed services, it is especially disturbing to us when one of these fine young men or women is killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. By any measure, their contributions, in terms of human sacrifice, are immense. As a nation we share the sense of loss and fear and worry that their families are experiencing.

It is difficult to find words of comfort for their families—offering our deepest sympathy doesn't begin to express the anguish we experience when we see pictures of American and allied soldiers killed, wounded, or held captive, or when we learn that some are missing in action. These are truly images that bind us together in our thoughts and prayers.

We must never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history. They have earned our gratitude and respect.

I encourage my colleagues and the citizens of this nation, to remember these inspiring men and women who have distinguished themselves with their gallantry and courage.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 27, 2003, despite all my efforts, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 91, on H. Con. Res. 118, Concerning the Treatment of Members of the Armed Forces Held as Prisoner of War by Iraqi Authorities, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 91—"aye."

As the United States Armed Forces and its international allies continue to liberate the oppressed Iraqi people from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, we pause today to recognize their bravery and professionalism. In addition, Congress extends heartfelt sympathies to the families of servicemembers who have been injured, killed, or taken prisoner in Iraq.

For more than 50 years, the Third Geneva Convention has prescribed guidelines for the proper and humane treatment of prisoners of war. Sadly, Iraq—which has agreed to abide by the Third Geneva Convention—views these international standards with the same callousness and disregard for human life that Saddam Hussein's murderous regime has dem-

onstrated for decades. Iraqi troops unwilling to die for a corrupt, diabolical regime can be comforted by the fact that American and coalition forces will treat prisoners of war humanely, supplying them with food, shelter, and medical assistance—in other words, treating them in full compliance with the Third Geneva Convention.

Iraqi television recently has broadcast, in direct violation of the Third Geneva Convention, footage of American Prisoners of War. I join my colleagues in thanking America's brave men and women serving their country on the front lines. I also unequivocally condemn Iraq's mistreatment of prisoners of war and remind the Iraqi regime that, if it chooses to ignore America's demand to abide by its commitment to the Third Geneva Convention, then these war criminals will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

JOHN KEBLES HONORED BY PENNSYLVANIA CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long record of service to the community of a constituent of mine, my good friend John Kebles. John is president and chief executive officer of Choice One Federal Credit Union in Wilkes-Barre and outgoing chairman of the board of the Pennsylvania Credit Union League for 2001–2002. The league will thank and honor him for his service at its annual convention, to be held from April 24 to 26, 2003.

I grew to know John well in 1998 during the fight to pass the Credit Union Membership Access Act, better known to many as H.R. 1151. The enactment of this law showed the power of average citizens to influence Congress, and, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that John is an excellent example of those dedicated souls who exercised their Constitutionally guaranteed right to petition their government.

As chairman of the state credit union league, he has successfully urged credit union members to become more involved in their government, setting an example for other credit union members around the nation. Another example of the league's many accomplishments under his leadership is the enactment of a state credit union parity bill last year to expand opportunities for state-chartered credit unions. Also during his tenure, the league has launched CU BizSource, a new product and service to offer business loans to members. This is a fine example of the democratic—"little D"—access to capital that credit unions are intended to provide.

In the Wilkes-Barre area, John has been a leader in several community-minded initiatives, including spearheading the effort by several

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